

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 4, 2006. Applicants have canceled claims 32-41. Claims 1-31 are pending.

Restriction Requirement

In the Office Action, claims 1-41 of the originally filed application were restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1-37, drawn to a distraction device and method,
- II. Claims 38-41, drawn to a stabilizing device.

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 32-41. Therefore, the Restriction Requirement is believed to be moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that the drawings are not suitable for examination purposes since they do not clearly show claimed features. The Examiner further suggested that Applicant submit new formal drawings along with the response in order to expedite examination.

Accordingly, Applicants have submitted some of the photographic figures as line drawings. The amended drawing figures can be found in the attached Appendix following page 20 of this paper.

The drawings have been corrected to substitute reference numerals for descriptive wording. In particular, the photographs submitted as FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1F, 1G, 1H and 1J have been deleted. The photographs submitted as FIGS. 1C, 1D, 1E, 1I and 1K have been converted to line drawings and are now designated respectively as FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (including FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C). Consequently, conceptual drawing submitted as FIGS. 2- 5 are now designated respectively as FIGS 7-10.

Corresponding reference numerals have been added to the specification.

In the event a figure has been deleted, the specification has been modified to refer to the same feature in a different figure or to describe the feature without saying that the feature is depicted in a figure. Some typographical errors have been corrected. No new matter has been added.

Double brackets have been used when strikethroughs would be difficult to see.

CONCLUSION

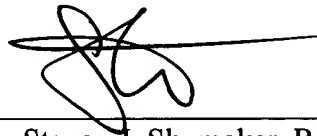
Substantive examination of claims 1-31 of the Application in view of the above-described amendments to the specification, the claims and the drawings is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

5-4-06

SHUMAKER & SIEFFERT, P.A.
8425 Seasons Parkway, Suite 105
St. Paul, Minnesota 55125
Telephone: 651.735.1100
Facsimile: 651.735.1102

By:



Name: Steven J. Shumaker, Reg. No.: 36,275 for
Kari H. Bartingale, Reg. No.: 35,183

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit herewith replacement drawing sheets FIGS. 1-5, 6A, 6B and 6C, and 7-10. The photographs originally submitted as FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1F, 1G, 1H and 1J are hereby deleted. The photographs originally submitted as FIGS. 1C, 1D, 1E, 1I and 1K have been converted to line drawings and are now designated respectively as replacement sheets FIGS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (including FIGS. 6A, 6B and 6C). The conceptual drawings originally submitted as FIGS. 2- 5 are now designated respectively as replacement sheets FIGS 7-10. The amended drawing figures can be found in the attached Appendix following page 20 of this paper. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment.